

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 EUR-12 EA-10 NEA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00
INR-10 NSAE-00 EB-08 TRSE-00 OMB-01 STR-07 ABF-01
L-03 OES-07 INT-05 DOE-15 SOE-02 SS-15 NSC-05
SP-02 /139 W

-----040634 211203Z /43

R 181908Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1434
INFO AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY ROME
AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY TOKYO

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN NEW YORK 02015

CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, RH, SF
SUBJECT: COMMITTEE ON SANCTIONS TIGHTENING (COST):
MAY 15 MEETING

REF: USUN 1250

1. MAY 15 COST MEETING FELL FLAT BECAUSE ONLY FIVE
OF THE TWELVE MEMBERS WERE REPRESENTED. THE FIVE
PRESENT DISCUSSED COST ISSUES INFORMALLY AS WELL
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AS RHODESIA SANCTIONS COMMITTEE ACTIVITIES.

2. CANADA PRESENTED ITS RESPONSE TO THE COST QUESTION-
NAIRE (POUCHED TO DEPT, IO/UNP, ATTN: ESCUDERO). US
ADVISED COST THAT ITS RESPONSE WAS VIRTUALLY COMPLETED
BUT HAD NOT YET ARRIVED NEW YORK. HOWEVER, THE US
RESPONSE WOULD BE MAILED TO COST REPRESENTATIVE WITHIN

THE WEEK. COST ASKED IF THE US HAD RECEIVED ANY RESPONSE FROM WASHINGTON REGARDING THE POSSIBILITY OF THE USG PERFORMING A COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE COST QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES (PARA 1 REFTEL). US REP STATED THAT WASHINGTON HAD NOT YET RESPONDED TO THIS REQUEST.

3. IN FACE OF DIMINISHING INTEREST IN COST, ONE REP SUGGESTED THAT COST SHOULD NOT MEET AGAIN UNTIL IT HAD SOMETHING TO DISCUSS. ANOTHER REP RESPONDED WRPLY THAT THAT COULD MEAN NEXT YEAR. US SUGGESTED THAT COST SHOULD MEET AFTER RESPONSES RECEIVED FROM WASHINGTON ON THE TWO REQUESTS MADE BY COST TO USG AT APRIL 3 MEETING, I.E.: (1) USG COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES (PARA 1 REFTEL) AND (2) USG DESCRIPTION OF ITS TECHNICAL ABILITIES TO DIFFERENTIATE ORIGINS OF CERTAIN SOUTH AFRICAN EXPORTS (PARA 3 REFTEL).

4. COMMENT; ACTION REQUESTED: COST CORRECTLY JUDGES THAT IT IS SIMPLY NOT WORTH THE EFFORT TO MEET SOLELY FOR APPEARANCES. REACTIONS FROM CAPITALS CLEARLY INDICATE COST CANNOT TAKE ANY KIND OF CONCERTED ACTION AIMED AT CLOSING THE BIGGEST LOOPHOLE -- SOUTH AFRICAN COMPLICITY WITH RHODESIA SANCTIONS BUSTING. STILL, COST CAN DO USEFUL THINGS ON OTHER PARTS OF THE PROBLEM -- COMPARATIVE ANALYSIS OF COST QUESTIONNAIRE RESPONSES AND SOME SOLID CONFIDENTIAL

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WORK ON TECHNICAL ANALYSES OF EXPORTS SEEM BY FAR THE BEST OPTIONS. AS COST MEMBERS HAVE MADE CLEAR TO US, NEITHER OF THESE POSSIBLY FRUITFUL PATHS WILL BE TRAVELLED UNLESS THE US SUPPLIES BOTH THE TECHNICAL STAFF WORK AND THE MOTIVE FORCE. THUS OUR CHOICE IS INCREASINGLY CLEAR: IF THE USG WANTS TO KEEP COST ALIVE, IT WILL HAVE TO RESPOND POSITIVELY, CREATIVELY AND RELATIVELY QUICKLY TO THE TWO COST REQUESTS POSED TO US ON APRIL 3. OTHERWISE COST IS DEAD AND NO SLEIGHT-OF-HAND IN NEW YORK WILL PROP UP THE CORPSE. MISSION SUGGESTS THAT COST IS WORTH KEEPING ALIVE, AND RECOMMENDS POSITIVE USG RESPONSES TO THE COST REQUESTS. LEONARD

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